

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended): A diagnostic imaging apparatus comprising:
a position-of-interest determination unit which determines a plurality of positions in a plurality of images of a predetermined part of an object which are taken during movement of the predetermined part, to be positions of interest in the plurality of images, where the plurality of positions in the plurality of images correspond to a predetermined position in the predetermined part; ~~and~~
a characteristic-quantity calculation unit which calculates a characteristic quantity indicating a positional relationship between the positions of interest in the plurality of images; and
an automatic diagnosis unit which outputs information on said predetermined part of said object, based on said characteristic quantity.
2. *(canceled).*
3. (original): A diagnostic imaging apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said predetermined part is a joint of a human body.
4. (currently amended): A diagnostic imaging apparatus according to claim 21, wherein said predetermined part is a joint of a human body.
5. (original): A diagnostic imaging apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said

plurality of images are a plurality of radiographic images which are taken by applying radiation to said predetermined part during the movement of the predetermined part.

6. (original): A diagnostic imaging apparatus according to claim 4, wherein a marker is attached to said predetermined part, said plurality of images are a plurality of radiographic images, and said position-of-interest determination unit determines positions of images of said marker to be said positions of interest, where said images of the marker are respectively formed in said plurality of radiographic images by radiation which has passed through the marker.

7. (original): A diagnostic imaging apparatus according to claim 5, wherein said plurality of radiographic images are taken by using a solid-state radiation detector which generates and stores electric charges when the solid-state radiation detector is irradiated with radiation.

8. (original): A diagnostic imaging apparatus according to claim 6, wherein said plurality of radiographic images are taken by using a solid-state radiation detector which generates and stores electric charges when the solid-state radiation detector is irradiated with radiation.

9. (new): The diagnostic imaging apparatus according to claim 1, wherein at least three images are taken during the movement of the predetermined part.

10. (new): The diagnostic imaging apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the diagnostic imaging apparatus is an automatic diagnostic imaging apparatus.

11. (new): the diagnostic imaging apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the diagnostic imaging apparatus is a radiographic imaging apparatus.

12. (new): The diagnostic imaging apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the information at least one of information indicating whether the predetermined part is normal, information indicating a degree of abnormality of the predetermined part, and the characteristic quantity.

13. (new): The diagnostic imaging apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the plurality of images of the predetermined part of the object are taken during movement through at least three positions of the predetermined part.